

up no important truth from flattery, it seeks not the praise of men; it is indeed, not only consistent with a firm mind, but it necessarily requires a manly spirit, and fixed principle, in order to give it any real value. It stands opposed to harshness and severity, to pride and arrogance, to violence and oppression it is properly that part of charity which makes us unwilling to give pain to any of our brethren.

Compassion prompts us to relieve their wants, forbearance prevents us from retaliating their injuries, meekness restrains our passions, candor our severe judgments, but gentleness corrects whatever is offensive in our manner, and by a constant train of human attentions studies to alleviate the burden of common misery and seeks to promote and elevate the happiness of those around us.

TESTIMONIES FROM NATURE OF THE INFINITE WISDOM OF GOD—Text, Ps. 19: 1-7

S. B. GRISSO

In approaching this subject, the first question which meets us is, what is nature? What relation do we hold to it? What mission does it perform in the world? It may be answered in a few words. Nature consists of the universe of created things; or in other words, the material universe embracing matter in all its forms and combinations. As to its relation we naturally would say, the source from whence we derive our support. But this is in a limited sense. To a great extent our support emanates from God direct. I hold that man is surrounded with thousands of unimpeachable testimonies of the Infinite power and wisdom of God. Where is the man that is strictly honest with himself that can not see in the countless, twinkling stars, testimonies of the existence of God? It might again be asked, who can not see in the beautiful sun which illuminates the heavens, warms the earth, causes vegetation to spring forth testimonies of our heavenly Father.

Go with me to the great waters that cover such a vast portion of our globe, in which hundreds of powerful keels are constantly plowing their way to and from foreign lands. These mighty bodies of water afford us thousands of mysterious living creatures, whose formation and nature form one of the many mysteries of God's creation.

Again, the tiny seed often so small that it can scarcely be seen, if by accident it falls to the ground it is lost, yet if placed beneath the soil, soon demonstrates a silent and unseen force working within its cells. What force, what energy is constantly displayed in the realms of nature. These forces to the rational mind attest a divine Being somewhere. Once more, before our eyes is an insect, so small we can scarcely see it, yet every organ perfectly performing their function, what a grand harmonious working together of each part, all to one end,—the sustaining of life. "O where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world?" Indeed God has made foolish the wisdom of this world.

The astronomer may survey the heavens, bring to our minds the workings of the various planets, their relation to each other, etc., he can go so far and no farther.

Philosophy may understand the workings of mechanical forces, and from their vast experience, and research may bring to our observation things which almost deceive our eyes. Yet with all this they can go so far and no farther. The rest remains for God to reveal. Cicero in his reply to the teachings of Lucretius said, "Can anyone in his senses imagine that this disposition of the stars, and the heavens so beautifully adorned, could have been formed by the fortuitous concourse of atoms? The beauty of the world and the order of all celestial things, compel us to confess that there is an excellent and eternal nature which deserves to be worshipped and admired by all mankind."

We are told that nature everywhere reveals the existence of God. Nature does not reveal, but only testifies. If nature is the means that God has of revealing himself to us, then there would have been no use of a separate revelation. Men in all ages, and all conditions would have been amply supplied with revelations from God. There would have been no use for those ancient philosophers groping along in darkness, seeking the existence of some higher power and not able to find it. Zophar in his contention with Job asked a pertinent question when he said, "Canst thou by searching find out God?" Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? No man has ever been able to find God aside from his revealed will,—the Bible. Had he not seen fit to reveal himself thru the person of Jesus Christ, his son and the Bible we would yet be "without God and without hope in the world," and "our faith whatever it would have been would be in vain and we would yet be in our sins." The Psalmist never could have exclaimed, "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Few there are who can or do realize how thankful we should be to God for thus opening up a way whereby we can return to him.

What remains then for us to do? What relation do we hold to these testimonies? One fact at least is worthy of our most careful consideration. God has so richly endowed us with reasoning faculties and thus revealed himself to us, supporting his revelation with such a host of testimonies that there is no need of any one living in constant doubt. The lack of a proper conception of these truths is the sole reason of many living in doubt. The Bible is to be studied as any other book in the light of being inspired. Its composition like other books, but its life giving power is divine. I hold that what is revealed to others is also revealed to me, but I may not be able to understand it. Again, the Holy Spirit reveals to us thru the Word as fast, and to such an extent as we are able to make use of, and no faster.

While the cup of one is overflowing with joys unspeakable, another may be full and overflowing in another way. While one sees and feels great joy in the Bible, I see and feel great joy in the study of nature. Sometime ago I had the privilege of looking into a flower with a microscope, a peculiar flower as it was, deep down in the flower could be seen the most beautiful tinted cells filled with a fluid thus forming a most beautiful testimony of the wisdom and power of God. Acquaint yourself thoroughly with the laws of nature and the divine laws and thru them you will be moulded and transformed into the likeness of Him who created you. They will exalt you into a new social life. Direct this great thought thru the hearts of the people, let it be carefully considered and it will open a greater and far more beneficial revolution in society than all the laws enacted by men. Society is morally at a low standard because of ignorance of these laws; but this ignorance is not justifiable. Man rises no higher than his environments. But alas! how few are any ways up to their environments. It will cause us to breathe forth a spirit of love for each other, because in everything we can see the beauty of our heavenly Father. It will form a tie of Christian charity where artificial ones exist. It will transform our fellowship with God from a doubtful to a real experience. How unjust we are to ourselves. We study everything but the divine principle with ourselves. A man was elated over his diplomas from colleges but not one from the hand of Him who died for him. We need a new revelation, not of heaven or of hell, but of the Spirit within ourselves. We need the quickening power of a revealed Christ in our souls.

LEAVE IT WITH GOD

C. H. WETHERBE

Some Christian people make haste to dispose of certain matters which ought to be left to God's disposal. They sometimes execute their wrath against a malicious opposer when it would be far better to let God deal with him in his own time and way. I have just read the Bible account of David's course toward Nabal. Nabal was a "very great" man and had large possessions, and one day David sent ten young men to him by whom David conveyed words of peace and blessing to Nabal, but the latter, being very "churlish and evil in his doings," treated David's messengers with abusive contempt and spoke vilely of David. When David received the report of the young men he at once resolved that he would proceed against Nabal in a warlike manner and destroy him and his possessions. But Abigail, Nabal's wife, learning the purpose of David, "made haste" and went out to meet David and his soldiers and earnestly interceded with David, saying that she herself was not responsible for her foolish husband's bad conduct and implored David to refrain from executing his purpose. Her intercession prevailed and David thanked God for thus